

**CITY OF VIROQUA
COUNCIL MINUTES
AUGUST 27, 2024**

1. Roll call:

The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27, 2024 by Mayor Justin Running at City Hall and via Zoom # 82642215829 with Alderpersons Seth McClurg, Andrew Bergum, Todd Kirking, Emma Hood, Todd Spaeth, John Thompson, Kristal Welter, and Steve Willis present. Cyndy Hubbard was excused. Also present were City Clerk Lori Polhamus, City Administrator Nate Torres, Public Works Director Sarah Grainger, Library Director Trina Erickson, Police Chief Rick Niedfeldt along with several members of the police department and public, Julie Malone and Kim Hollerman.

2. Approval of the August 20, 2024 Special Council minutes – Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Kirking to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

3. Council Announcements – Alderperson Willis stated there is a public information meeting on the Main Street project on 9/4/2024 at 5pm at City Hall.

4. First period for public comment – None

5. Police Department pinning ceremony – Chief Rick Niedfeldt- Chief Niedfeldt administered oaths and presented badges to Ian Aspenson, Bradley Raasch and Lucas Allen.

6. Public hearing regarding conditional use application for Mackenzie Haakenson to use property located at 206 #B North Washington Ave as a dog grooming business – the public hearing was opened at 6:41 pm. Julie Malone, 312 E Decker asked if everything will be inside and no boarding and if drainage issues will be addressed. Haakenson stated they will have daytime hours and no boarding with only a couple animals there at a time. The public hearing was closed at 6:45 pm.

7. Discussion and possible action on conditional use application for Mackenzie Haakenson (Plan Commission)- Motion by Alderperson Spaeth/second by Alderperson Hood to approve the conditional use application for Mackenzie Haakenson. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

8. Review of 2023 Audit – Johnson Block- Kim Hollerman of Johnson Block and Nate reviewed the audit and answered questions.

9. Review and approval of 2024 development agreement payments- payments were reviewed for Viroqua Food Coop \$40,244.56 from Tid 6, GFL Environmental \$12,003 from Tid 5, Ridgeland Restoration \$12,792 from Tid 6 and Vikemyr Wangen Properties \$2269 and Felton Ford \$54,167 from Tid 7. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Willis to approve the 2024 development agreement payments as presented. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Alderperson Hood left the meeting at 7:50 pm.

10. Review and approval of amendment to approved ARPA plan- Torres reviewed a list of additions to ARPA funds for police K-9 and speed boards rather than for borrowing since the dump truck chassis is now in and we will use borrowed funds for that. The final list would be for the website, comp plan, WTC community room contribution, sealcoating walking trail, body cams, K-9 officer, speed boards and the Main & Decker improvements for a total of \$460,750.98. Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the ARPA plan amendment. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

11. Discussion with possible action regarding GO Note for 2024 Capital projects- the K-9 squad car for \$57,921 and Dump Truck chassis for \$51,189 for borrowing around \$110,000 plus cost of issuance with a blended

amortization schedule was discussed. Motion by Alderperson Welter/second by Alderperson Spaeth to approve a GO Note for not to exceed \$115,000 for 2024 Capital projects. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

12. Review and approval of comprehensive plan RFP – this was reviewed with Plan Commission and Department Heads and Trina reviewed some of the comments for the council. The final draft will be brought back at the first September Council meeting for approval.

13. Review and approval of state municipal financial agreement for Education Avenue project (Public Works) – this is a resurfacing project from Johnson Street to Hwy 56 with a start date of 2027 and sunset date of 2032. The cost of the project is estimated at \$834,625 with grant funding of \$549,698. Motion by Alderperson McClurg/second by Alderperson Kirking to approve the state municipal financial agreement for the Education Avenue project. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

14. Review and approval of bid award for 2024 sewer projects contingent on EPA approval (Public Works) – the projects consist of Railroad Avenue, West Broadway extension, redoing the line under the old landfill and elimination of the fairgrounds lift station. We had four bidders with Badger Environmental as low bidder at \$1,095,988.60 for the base bid and alternate for sealcoating Railroad Avenue. Motion by Alderperson Spaeth/second by Alderperson Welter to approve the Badger Environmental bid contingent on EPA approval. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

15. Review and approval of Farhner chip seal bid for Prairie Wind Way (Public Works) - tabled

16. Payment of bills (Finance) - Motion by Alderperson McClurg/second by Alderperson Kirking to approve the payment of bills on report date 08/22/2024 in the amount of \$48,614.07 and additional bills on report date 08/27/2024 for \$28,399.71. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

17. Possible closed session per WI Stats 19.85 (1)(c) – considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governing body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – Street Department Positions (Public Works) – Motion by Alderperson Willis/second by Alderperson Welter to enter closed session at 8:37 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

18. Reconvene in open session with possible action on items discussed during closed session – Motion by Alderperson Thompson/second by Alderperson Kirking to reconvene in open session at 9:13 pm. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried. Motion by Alderperson Willis/second by Alderperson Bergum to approve the items discussed in closed session. Roll call vote all in favor. Motion carried.

19. Second Period for Public Comment – None

20. Adjournment - Motion made by Alderperson Kirking/second by Alderperson Willis to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. Voice vote all in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lori Polhamus, City Clerk